REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct obvious typographical errors. The material added to page 5, specifically "Advantageously, the dissolution process is done at a temperature between 40° C and 80° C, for example between 45° C and 55° C," is supported in originally filed claims 3 and 4. The material added to page 8, specifically "the re-circulation is carried out at a constant rate of about one-tenth of the leach solution volume per minute," is supported in original claim 6. Original claims 1 to 13 have been cancelled. New claims 14 to 71 are pending. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider this application with a view towards allowance.

A fee sheet is attached herewith to pay the required fees for the application, the surcharge, and for the added claims. Additionally, a separate request and fee sheet is attached for the required extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee(s) to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

June 4, 2004

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